

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

- Sub
A2
- 5 1. A digital camera, comprising:
an optical system through which light from a photographic subject passes;
an image sensor which is disposed on an optical axis of said optical system
and which receives light passing through said optical system and produces a signal
representing an image of the photographic subject;
a light emission system for illuminating the photographic subject;
a plurality of light measuring elements which are disposed away from said
10 optical axis and which sense light from said emission system that is reflected by the
photographic subject and passes through said optical system; and
a controller which controls the operation of said light emission system in
accordance with the light sensed by at least one of said light measuring elements.
- 15 2. The digital camera of claim 1 wherein said controller selects one or
more of said light measuring elements which produces a normal output value, and
controls the operation of said light emission system in accordance with the output
values from the selected elements.
- 20 3. The digital camera of claim 2 wherein said controller determines an
average value for the output values of all of said light measuring elements to set a
standard value, and selects the light measuring elements whose output values are less
than said standard value.
- 25 4. The digital camera of claim 3 wherein said standard value is equal to
the determined average value.

09556308-042400

004240-80295560

5. The digital camera of claim 2 wherein said controller controls the operation of said light emission system in accordance with the average output value of all of the selected elements.

5 6. The digital camera of claim 1 wherein said light measuring elements are located in a space between said optical system and said image sensor.

7. The digital camera of claim 6 wherein said light measuring elements sense light that is reflected by said image sensor.

10

8. A digital camera, comprising:

an optical system through which light from a photographic subject passes;

an image sensor which is disposed on an optical axis of said optical system and which receives light passing through said optical system and produces a signal representing an image of the photographic subject;

15

a light emission system for illuminating the photographic subject;

a light measuring element which is located in a space between said optical system and said image sensor, and which senses flare light within said space; and

20

a controller which controls the operation of said light emission system in accordance with the light sensed by said light measuring element.

9. The digital camera of claim 8 wherein said light measuring element has a photoreceptor surface which is disposed approximately parallel to said optical axis.

25

10. The digital camera of claim 8 wherein said image sensor has an image sensing surface which is located outside of the photoreception range of said

light measuring element.

11. The digital camera of claim 8 further including a diffusion plate disposed on the photoreceptive surface of said light measuring element.

5 12. The digital camera of claim 8 further including a condensing element for directing flare light within said space toward said light measuring element.

10 13. The digital camera of claim 12 wherein said light measuring element is located on one side of said optical path, and said condensing element comprises a concave mirror located on the opposite side of said optical path.

14. The digital camera of claim 12 wherein said condensing element comprises a mirror which circumscribes said optical axis.

15 15. The digital camera of claim 12 wherein said optical system includes a low-pass filter through which light passes before it is received by said image sensor, and said condensing element is disposed between said low-pass filter and said image sensor.

004240 80E95560